

## **STAFF REPORT**

**TO:** Chairman and Members, Engineering Services Committee

**FROM:** Utilities Manager, Jeff Cuthbertson

**DATE:** 3 May 2007

**SUBJECT:** **UTILITIES MANAGEMENT REPORT**

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### **1 GENERAL**

In general the maintenance contract works have been carried out in an excellent manner, and most operational issues have been kept well under control. The contractor has undertaken a large number of reactive repairs promptly and efficiently and within the appropriate standards. Although there remains a significant portion of work to complete before the end of June the progress toward this goal is firmly on track. Solid progress has recently been made in the electrical upgrades of a number of wastewater pumpstations with electrical upgrades of water facilities also underway.

Following recent upgrades of the telemetry base-station hardware, and some optimisation of the control systems, the frequency and volume of communication failures have been reduced.

### **2 WATER**

#### **2.1 General**

The continuing dry period until this week, has caused concern and put considerable strain on all TDC water supplies. Water restrictions have just been lifted and have been in place for the longest period known. Overall, water consumption volumes have tapered off due to the recent wet weather.

The following failures occurred recently:

- A burst of the 150mm AC main outside Wakefield Treatment Plant.
- Mains bursts in High and Thorp Streets, Motueka.
- Mains bursts in Talbot and Warren Kelly Streets, Richmond.
- Some telemetry system faults resulted in temporary interruption to pumps in Richmond and Old Coach Road.

#### **2.2 Appleby Well Upgrade**

Due to the Transit road widening project the Appleby Well requires some alteration work to ensure it is positioned in a safe location. A cost share arrangement is in place for such occurrences. The work is to be carried out in conjunction with the extension of Borck's Creek culvert by Sicon.

## **2.3 Brightwater Reservoir**

Detailed design is complete for the Brightwater Reservoir. The documentation for building consent application has been submitted. The contract is to be tendered prior to June 2007 and construction is planned for the 2007/2008 financial year.

## **2.4 Dovedale Rural Water Supply**

Until the very recent periods of steady rain, the scheme has continued to operate at its capacity limit. The lower intake-Humphries booster pump has continued to be utilised to sustain the demand for water in the scheme. Council received one complaint related to the operating noise of the booster pump. The issue was investigated and found to be minor however it will be revisited if it becomes an issue again next summer.

## **2.5 Mapua Trunk Main**

The tender for the renewal of the section of main across the two estuary channels between Best and Rabbit Islands has been awarded to Ching Contracting Ltd. The contractor is due to commence work on site this month.

# **3 STORMWATER**

## **3.1 General**

Most areas throughout the region have again experienced very dry conditions with little or no rainfall with the exception of this week. No significant issues have been reported.

Some investigation into the performance of the sump pumps/wetwell adjacent to the Brightwater Underpass continues along with ongoing discussions with the supervising consultants.

## **3.2 Borck's Creek/Headingly Lane Channel**

The pre-cast concrete bridge beams have been constructed and installed for the access to the end property in Headingly Lane. The physical works contract for the next stage of channel widening is currently out for selected tender.

## **3.3 Croucher Street/Bird Street/Elizabeth Street, Richmond**

Preliminary survey work, asset data checking and liaison with affected parties has commenced to determine appropriate solutions to drainage issues in Croucher, Bird and Elizabeth Streets.

# **4 WASTEWATER**

## **4.1 General**

The following incidents have recently occurred:

- The number three aerator was removed from the Murchison pond to have a lower bearing failure remedied and then was recommissioned. A second aerator also failed and the cause was found to be the bottom bearing of the motor. The repair was

carried out by the original supplier at their cost.

- A planned power interruption affecting Mapua Wharf required the attendance of Sepclean tankers to prevent overflows. The exercise was performed satisfactorily and without interruption to customer service.
- A block occurred at the caravan dump station at Jubilee Park, Richmond with no overflow evident.

#### **4.2 Motupipi Street Sewermain Replacement**

Works Infrastructure has made significant progress and completed the section upstream of Waitapu Engineering. The downstream portion continues to be problematic due to excess groundwater but Works have engaged trenching specialists to complete the section utilising sheet-piling methods.

#### **4.3 Waitapu Pumpstation**

Negotiations with the landowner continue to secure the appropriate size of land required for the upgraded facility.

Design details for the pumpstation and associated pipework are all but complete and the resource consents are well underway.

#### **4.4 Wastewater Renewals Projects**

The programme of pumpstation electrical upgrades is progressing well for the eight highest priority sites. The work is to be completed prior to June 2007.

#### **4.5 CCTV Contract**

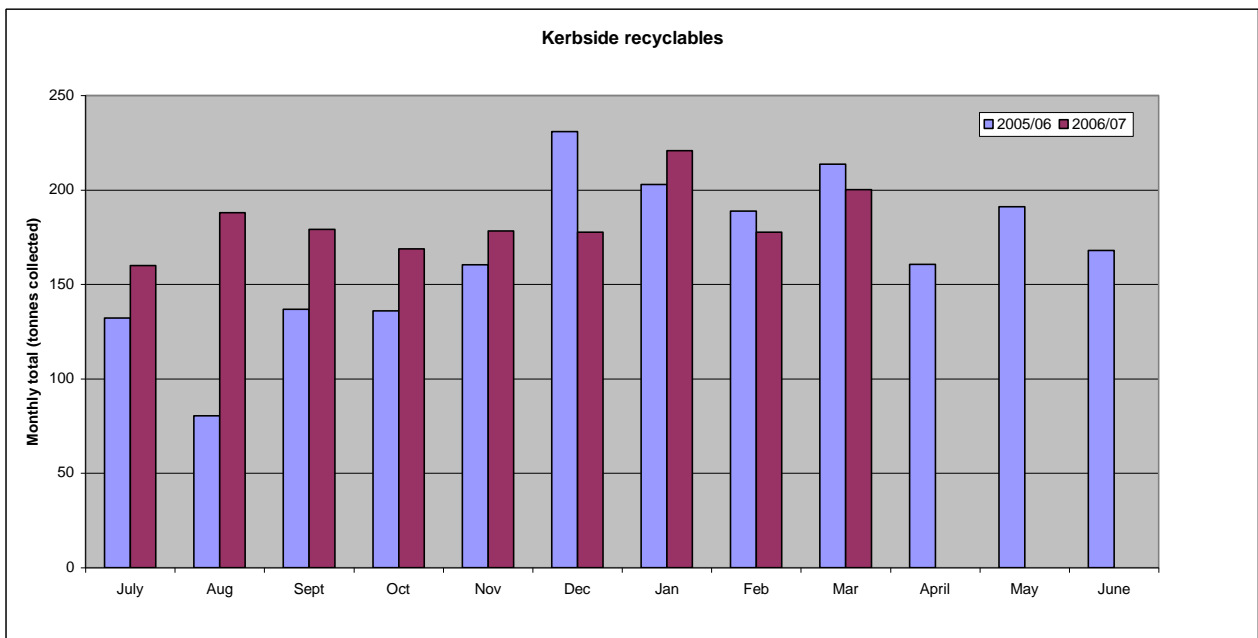
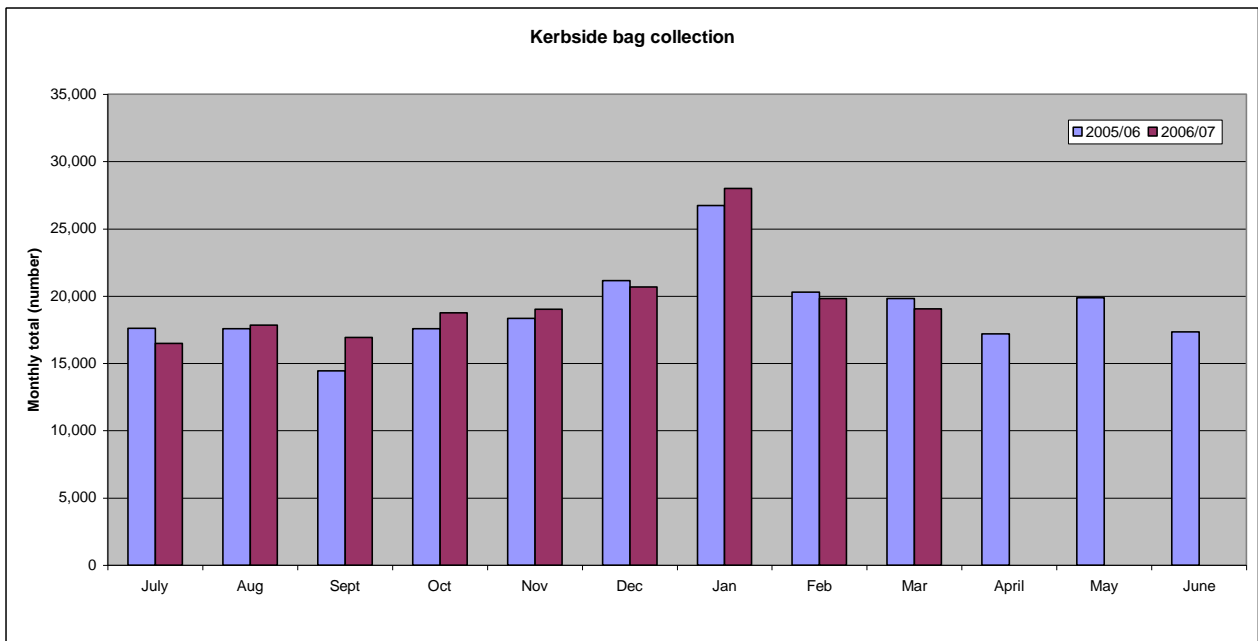
Contracted works have been completed, and some extra work has been added to the contract to carry out smoke testing in Collingwood and Upper Takaka as well as extra work in Motueka. The CCTV contractor has reported that there are a number of connections within the reticulation that leak and/or the lateral protrudes into the receiving sewer, with the potential to cause blockages. These locations are potential sources of water infiltration and will be rectified under the renewals programme.

### **5 SOLID WASTE**

#### **5.1 Kerbside bag collection and recycling**

Kerbside refuse and recycling collection continues with a high level of performance from the contractor, Streetsmart. Council and Streetsmart are currently finalising an updated "3R's" publication, which will include updates to the kerbside routes, and over coming months we will look to encourage greater participation of the kerbside recycling service.

Council and Streetsmart have also agreed to trial an improved recycling service to be offered to schools in the District, utilising 120 and 240 litre wheelie bins. The amended service will initially be trialled in the Richmond and Motueka area, and rolled out to the remainder of the District over time. In the meantime schools outside the Richmond and Motueka areas will be offered additional flexibility through the kerbside collection service.



## 5.2 Resource Recovery Centre Operations

Operation of the four RRC's continues with good performance by the contractor. Gradual improvements are being made to each of the four sites (Richmond, Mariri, Takaka and Collingwood) through the efforts of the contractor and Council and contractor-funded capital works.

Diversion of recyclable material at most sites has increased steadily over the last six months; at the Richmond site, a high ongoing rate of the waste stream is hampering efforts to divert on site.

Recent initiatives by the contractor have resulted in significant diversion of waste "at source", and identification of further opportunities. This approach is seen as a more sustainable long term solution.

Recent and up-coming capital works at the four sites include:

### **Richmond**

- Tender preparation for a range of site improvements (drainage, improved waste handling areas and provision of glass storage and loading areas) is now complete and tenders for the work will be advertised on 5 May 2007, with work expected to commence in mid-June 2007.
- Quotations for a number of weighbridge options were sought from three suppliers in March, with responses received from two. Council staff are currently considering two options from a preferred supplier. Both suppliers have also provided prices for weighbridge installation at the Mariri site.

### **Mariri**

- New kiosk and ablution facilities, oil handling and water reticulation improvements are now substantially complete.
- Repairs and improvements to the existing sealed areas on the site are in progress.
- Improvements to on-site drainage are in progress.
- Provision of improved storage areas for recyclable and reusable materials is planned in the next two months, subject to building consent.

### **Takaka**

- Improvements to the kiosk are now complete.
- Improvements to site drainage are now in progress.
- Provision of a concrete slab area for glass storage and crushing is proposed over the next two months.

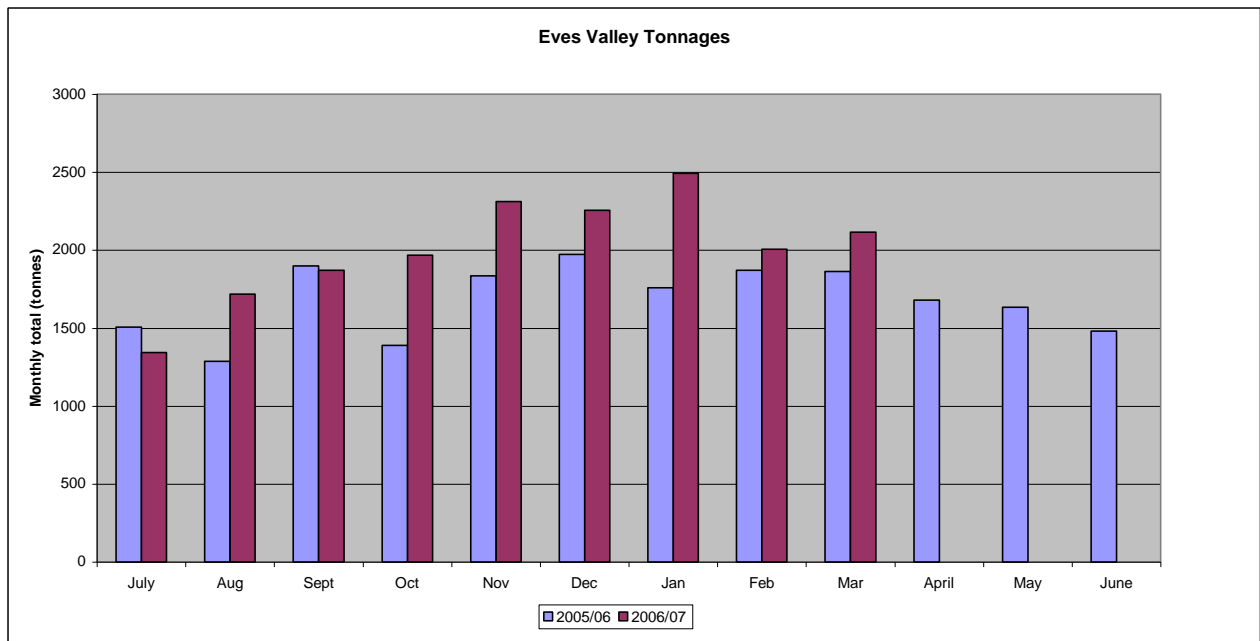
### **Collingwood**

- Improvements to on-site drainage are now complete.
- Construction of an unloading area and weather-proof storage for recycling is in progress.

## **5.3 Landfill operations and income / expenditure**

Site operations continue, with no significant issues. Waste quantities to Eves Valley have decreased slightly over the last six weeks (in line with seasonal trends), but remain significantly above 2005/06 tonnages, with a projection of 24,000 tonnes for the 2006/07 year.

This significant increase in waste above budgeted quantities will result in a net surplus income for the current financial year, although this surplus will be somewhat offset by increased operating costs and potential losses incurred through the receivership of Chequer Packaging.



## 5.4 Murchison Landfill

Good progress is being made on the preparation of a tender document for site improvements for the Murchison landfill. A single tender is being prepared that will include pricing of both options (landfill extension or development of a transfer station) as well as provision of transport. Council expect to call for tenders in mid May 2007, with construction commencing late June 2007.

Engineering staff have met with Environment & Planning staff to clarify the consent requirements for each of the landfill and transfer station options.

For continuation of landfill operations and development of a new landfill cell the following (regional) consents would be required:

- consent for discharge of refuse to land, and
- consent for discharge of odour to air.

At this stage it has not been finally determined whether the consent applications would be treated on a notified or non-notified basis, although indications from staff are that a non-notified application is likely. No land use consents would be required, as the site is designated for sanitary landfill activities.

For establishment of a transfer station at the site it is unlikely that regional consents would be required. Either a change in the designation or resource consent (Land use - Transfer Station Operations) would be required. Practically speaking, the most efficient course of action would be to apply for a land use consent (this would likely be on a non-notified basis) and subsequently amend the site designation at a later date.

## 5.5 NCC/TDC Landfill Options Review

A second meeting of the technical working party was held on 28 March 2007. Further progress has been made. A further and likely final meeting will be held in May before the working party report comes back to the Engineering Services Committee for consideration and review.

## 6 MOUTERE DEEP AQUIFER – REQUEST FOR REPORT

Attached is a memorandum to the Environment & Planning Manager requesting a report on the process for allocation of available water from the Moutere deep water aquifer. We look forward to seeing the detail of the report in due course.

## 7 TENDERS

Tenders awarded since the last meeting are:

No.	Contract name	No. of tenders received	Successful tenderer	Amount	Highest amount	TDC estimate	Budget for this item	Comment
688	Utilities maintenance contract	2	Works Infrastructure	\$9,784,833	\$13,699,453	\$12,604,729	-	Part only of total water, wastewater and stormwater budget for next six years.
697	Mapua watermain upgrade – Best Island to Rabbit Island	3	Ching Contracting	\$433,322	\$544,985	\$396,565	\$750,000	Part of flood damage repair work

## 7 RECOMMENDATION

**THAT** the report be received.

Jeff Cuthbertson  
**Utilities Asset Manager**